



FACT Sheet



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL & HEALTH SERVICES

Resources for youth and their caregivers

Resource Family Training Institute

Classes and Videos available at:

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents>

General Advocacy

Community Resources:

- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction www.k12.wa.us
- Treehouse Educational Advocates www.treehouseforkids.org
- Team Child www.teamchild.org
- Office of the Education Ombudsman www.waparentslearn.org
- Washington Partnership for Action Voices for Empowerment www.wapave.org
- National Center for Homeless Education www.serv.org/nche
- National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth www.naehcy.org

Post-Secondary Education:

- College Success Foundation www.collegesuccessfoundation.org
- Casey Family Programs www.casey.org
- Higher Education Coordinating Board www.hecb.wa.gov

EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

The Educational Advocacy Program provides direct advocacy, consultation, information, and referral services to foster youth. All youth in out of home care with unmet educational needs are eligible with priority for kindergarten through 10th grade students. A Children's Administration social worker or CHET screener may refer a child to the Educational Advocacy Program.

An Educational Advocate for children in care must:

- Be a willing and active advocate.
- Know the individual child and any difficulties that he or she might be experiencing.
- Be able to create a working relationship with the schools, teachers and other staff.
- Be able to communicate effectively.

Children's Administration offers many resources and supports for Educational Advocates:

DSHS Publications:

- Social Worker's Practice Guide to Education: for Children and Youth in Foster Care DSHS 22-1185 (02/07)
- <http://ca.dshs.wa.gov/intranet/pdf/programs/SW%20Education%20Advocacy%20Final.pdf>
- Education Advocacy Guide for Caregivers: Supporting School Success for Children and Youth in Care DSHS 22-1192 (03/07)
- Helping Foster Children Achieve Educational Stability and Success –A Field Guide for Information Sharing DSHS 22-1210 (07/07)
- Students in Foster Care – What school staff need to know DSHS 22-002 (Rev. 6/07)
- Washington State's Adolescent Website for Foster Youth www.independence.wa.gov
- Gear Up For Success www.gearup.wa.gov

Additional Information

- Making a Difference in a Child's Life: A Manual for Helping Children and Youth Get What They Need in School www.teamchild.org
- Family Dictionary of Education Terms www.waparentslearn.org
- Discipline in Public Schools www.waparentslearn.org
- How to be an Education Advocate www.waparentslearn.org
- Basic Education Rights and Opportunities in Public Schools www.waparentslearn.org
- Destination Graduation: film about foster youth graduating from high school and getting into college. <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/videoGear.asp>
- College Bound Scholarship: Offers the promise of tuition and books to qualifying 7th and 8th grade foster children in Washington <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/Paying/waaidprgm/CollegeBoundScholarship.asp>